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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

1945 WOOL PURCHASE PROGRAM

538566

February 22, 1945

Reserve

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPRAISERS

With two years of experience behind us, the appraisal section should be in a position this year to do its best job of valuing the domestic wool. Certain practices and procedures have become clarified as we have proceeded with this work and should be uniformly followed in all areas this year. These are summarized below:

(1) All committees must look at more wool when valuing graded piles than we have done in the past. The piles should be broken down in at least three or four places and deep holes dug to check more carefully on any possible variations within piles.

(2) On all original bag lots where the wool appears to vary considerably within the bags, committees should always call for extra bags if any doubt exists in their minds that the sample bags shown are not fully representative of the lot.

(3) When valuing burry or defective wools, in addition to taking the proper discount for defect, all committees must figure on the burr or defect content when estimating the shrinkage.

(4) 1944 proved conclusively the value of having on hand at all times a large supply of graded wools. Committees in 1945 will, therefore, continue to order all mixed lots graded, classes 8-D and 8-E being typical. Committees must be firm with all handlers on this point.

(5) All committees should check more carefully this year on their estimates of shrinkage and clean values in appraising graded wools. A considerable number of graded lines in 1944 were graded somewhat on the high side for quality, particularly in the 3/8 and 1/4 blood grades, but the handler expected not only the top clean price but a lighter shrinkage than the quality warranted. Conversely, some lines were found to be graded on the low side, but the handler expected the higher range of clean values.

(6) The application of the tag discount this year will be one of our most difficult tasks. Attention is called to section 7 of the 1945 handler's agreement, paragraph (iii): "Less a discount of not to exceed three (3) percent as determined by the appraisers, where all the tags and other off wools in original bag wool are not packed separately." The proper interpretation of the phrase, "where all the tags and other off wools in original bag

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wool are not packed separately," means that even if some off wools are packed separately, but more are found scattered through the bags or stuffed in fleeces, the entire lot is still subject to a discount not to exceed 3 percent. Furthermore, in some areas it is customary for producers to sell their crutchings or winter tags separately and in advance of shearing. In all such cases the handler must have for the appraisers a written certification of this sale signed by the producer.

(7) California committees shall order scoured or carbonized, all eight months wools that are not of definite combing length, of uniform quality, and well bred.

(8) Unfortunately, in the past some committees have been subjected to undue pressure by the handler or his representative. If this occurs again this season, all committees should refuse to continue valuing and explain that this practice cannot be tolerated.

TO ALL APPRAISERS:

I wish to stress again, at the risk of repetition, that all that is asked of you is common sense and the unbiased exercise of your wool judgment and experience.



Durham Jones  
Chief Wool Appraiser